

Message Text

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64

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 SSO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 L-02

NEA-04 SAJ-01 SPC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-03 OIC-01

DRC-01 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 276

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T VIENNA 8803

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARN, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NEW U.S. DATA FOR PUBLIC USE

FROM US REP MBFR

REF: (A) USNATO 5083; (B) STATE 209532

1. WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING NEW U.S. DATA WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY. AD HOC GROUP HAS REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED THE DATA PROBLEM AND REACHED AGREEMENT THAT IT WILL BE POLITICALLY NECESSARY FOR ALLIED SPOKESMEN TO BE IN A POSITION TO USE AGREED TOTAL FIGURES FOR NATO AND WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCES IN NGA, US AND SOVIET FORCES IN NGA AND NATO AND WARSAW PACT TANK TOTALS IN NGA IN CONNECTION WITH BACKGROUNDERS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 31; ALLIES CANNOT HAVE

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PREPARED MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FOR FOUR YEARS AND NOT BE

IN POSITION TO GIVE BASIC INFORMATION ON FORCE LEVELS.

2. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE INFORMED UK AND FRG THAT DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORIZED US TO USE STANDARD FIGURES ON THIS SUBJECT ON BASIS OF REF (B), WE HAVE NOT BROUGHT UP THIS ITEM IN AD HOC GROUP AS A U.S. INITIATIVE SEPARATE FROM DISCUSSION OF NEW DATA AT NATO AND SHALL AVOID CREATING SUCH AN IMPLICATION. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR US IF USNATO COULD FOCUS NATO DISCUSSIONS ON THE THREE FIGURES MENTIONED ABOVE AND IF FEASIBLE ACCELERATE TIMING OF SPC AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS NOW PLANNED TO DISCUSS THE DATA ISSUE SO THAT WE CAN BY OCTOBER 30 AT LATEST OBTAIN NATO AGREEMENT FOR NATO SPOKESMAN TO USE THESE SPECIFIC FIGURES IF THEY ARE NEEDED. ALTERNATIVE WILL BE RELIANCE ON DIVERGENT NATIONAL FIGURES, WHICH WOULD ALSO CREATE UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION OF ALLIED UNPREPAREDNESS.

3. AS FAR AS AD HOC GROUP NEEDS ARE CONCERNED, IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE NATIONAL SUBTOTALS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE AS GREAT REAL DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN U.S. FIGURES ON WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE LEVELS RESULTING FROM RECENT NATO TO&E CONFERENCE AS APPEAR IN CHART IN USNATO 5063. AT FIRST SIGHT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT LATER FIGURES MUST BE COMPUTED ON DIFFERENT BASIS AND PERHAPS DO NOT INCLUDE COMBAT UNITS AT THE ARMY LEVEL OR IN COMBAT OR SERVICE SUPPORT.

4. UK AND FRG REPS HERE WILL ALSO BE REQUESTING THEIR AUTHORITIES TO SUPPORT MORE RAPID TIMETABLE IN SPC AND MBFR WORKING GROUP AS CONCERNS USE OF THE LIMITED NUMBER OF FIGURES MENTIONED ABOVE. WE UNDERSTAND MILITARY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE HERE HAS ALSO MADE SAME REQUEST TO HIS AUTHORITIES.
HUMES

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